BIOMETRICS
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

News Release

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DoD BMO and West Virginia University Offer Graduate Certificate Program in Information Assurance and Biometrics

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 24, 2003 – The Department of Defense (DoD) Biometrics Management Office (BMO), in conjunction with West Virginia University (WVU), has developed a Graduate Certificate Program in Information Assurance and Biometrics (IAB). The goal of this program is to provide students with a solid understanding of biometrics, security system principles, and their scientific foundation; awareness of social, psychological, ethical, and legal policies in the field; and the ability to communicate with professionals in a wide range of public services on the principles and techniques of IAB.

This Graduate Level 15 Credit Hour Certificate program, offered within the College of Engineering and Mineral Resources on WVU's campus, is a precursor for students to enter into the Masters program with a concentration in IAB.

"This program allows participants to combine professional expertise with the course curriculum to gain perspective on public policy, strengthen managerial skills, and interact across agency and executive-legislative branch boundaries," said Walter McCollum, PhD, biometrics education program manager for the DoD BMO.

Students in the program are required to take introductory courses in biometric systems and information assurance, as well computer security, in the first semester, and progress to advanced biometrics and forensics statistics in the second semester. In this time, students can choose an elective course in either digital image processing or computer/network security to fill out their curriculum.

The Department of Defense Biometrics Management Office is the central entity within the DoD responsible for leading, consolidating and coordinating the development, adoption and institutionalization of biometric technologies for combatant commands, Services and Agencies, to enhance Joint Service interoperability and warfighter operational effectiveness.